(b) whether it is a fact that such material is being regularly sold in the market of Ludhiana since a very long time;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to stop this illegal sale of fibre; and

(d) what are the reasons for which the patties who are importing this material aJ 'Actual Users' against advance licence are not being taken to task for violating t'ne rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P, R. DAS MUNSHI); (a) Some cases of abuse of imported polyester staple fibre against advance licences have come to notice.

(b) Government have no such information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Aprropriate action has been taken wherever violation of condition of the licence has come to notice.

Manufacture of bullet-proof vests

1621. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS b% pleased to state;

(a) what efforts have been made to manufacture bullet-proof vests ,n India; and

(b) whether it is 'a fact that a number of companies have sent proposals to Government for indigenous *a*anufacture ot such vests, if so, what action has been or is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) *Tb&* Bureau of Police Research and Development under the Ministry of Home Affairs have been directed to make eitorts «> mdigemse the manufacture of bullet-proof, vests. They are contacting various De partments of the Government dealing *Miih.* the technology on the subject, to «- i amine the possibility Of mass production I of the basic fibre needed for faDneauon of the bullet-proof vests. They are aiso examining the offers made by various pr> vate firms for indegenous manufacture ol this item. The samples offered <•" evaluated to 'ascertain whether they meet the required specifications and whether the firms can undertake mass production.

Need for protection of forests

1622. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent news report captioned 'Need to create an awareness on the benefits of forests';

(b) whether it is a fact that a large urea of forests is eroded every year due to increasing demand from the growing population for roads and other Similar reasons;

(c) whether Government h'ave anyproposal to bring awareness among thepe

(d) if so, what is the programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE JVIINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The forests are under severe pressure due to increasing demand for forest products from the rising population. The Department has launched a National Environment Awareness Campaign to create awareness on protection of environment and forests at all levels. The Department also has 'a scheme on En-; vironment Education and Training to

support seminars, workshops, training programmes, exhibitions, essay and p competitions, nature study tours, establishment of eco-clubs in schools and colleges, production and distribution of education material etc. *ln* th-sse endeavours, the Department is assisted by two of its institutions namely Centre for Environment Education Ahmedabad, and the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi(and others.

Interpretation of NIT Award

1623. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

SHRr M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the reasons for which his Ministry is not constituting National Industrial Tribunal for interpretation of the NIT Award No. NTB 1 of 1985 although failure report was received by the Ministry in November, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The matter is under consideration.

Export of Tea to Iran

162.4. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

DR. R. K. PODDAR-

SHRI M. A. BABY;

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: .

Will the Minister of OOMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board overruled the objection of the Calcutta Customs by cleaving export of tea to Iran at a lower prices resulting i_n a loss of over Rs. 10 crores in foreign exchange to the country;

(b) if so the persons responsible therefor in the Board;

(c) what is Government's reaction J thereto; and

(d) whether any action is contem plated against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE j (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSH^: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Supply of arms *o South Africa by NATO Allies

.. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-RS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are sware that the NATO allies including France ar_e sending arms to South Africa in violation of 1977 Internationa] Arms Embargo;

(b) whether the Indian, Government have made any protest to the NATO allies along with Switzerland in this regard; and

(c) if so, when the reaction Of the Inaian Government was despal< to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEi-RO): (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) and (c) Our opposition to such violations i_s well $know_n$ and has been reiterated from time to time in various international fora.

Indian National working in Lebanon

1626. SHRI V. NARAYANAS-AMY . Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian workers who are working in various fields in Lebanon are work-